

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons,

OF MINNESOTA,

AT ITS FIFTH GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, IN THE CITY OF
ST. PAUL, COMMENCING JANUARY 6TH, A. L. 5857.

The Annual Communication of the M. W. Grand ☐ of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Territory of Minnesota, was opened in the Hall of the Minnesota Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1, in St. Paul, on the first Tuesday in January, A. D. 1857, A. L. 5857, being the sixth day of said month. Present,

M. W. A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R. W. D. B. LOOMIS, as Deputy Grand Master.
R. W. THOS. LOMBARD, Grand Senior Warden.
R. W. E. A. HODSDON, Grand Junior Warden.
R. W. EMANUEL CASE, Grand Treasurer.
R. W. HENRY REYNOLDS, Grand Secretary.
W. GEO. L. BECKER, Grand Marshal.
W. REV. J. PENMAN, Grand Chaplain.
W. D. M. COOLBAUGH, as Grand Senior Deacon.
W. GEO. T. VAIL, Grand Junior Deacon.
W. W. W. PHELPS, Grand Pursuivant.
W. O. T. HAYES, Senior Grand Steward.
W. B. PRESLEY, Junior Grand Steward.
W. A. RICHARDSON, Grand Tyler.

Representatives from a constitutional number of ☐ being present, the Grand ☐ was opened in ample form, and with prayer, by the R. W. and Rev. J. Penman, Grand Chaplain.

The Grand Secretary, by direction of the M. W. G. M., proceeded to make out the following roll of Grand and Past Grand Officers and Representatives, entitled to be present and vote at this Grand Annual Communication.

M. W. A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R. W. H. N. SETZER, Deputy Grand Master.
R. W. THOS. LOMBARD, Grand Senior Warden.
R. W. E. A. HODSDON, Grand Junior Warden.
R. W. E. CASE, Grand Treasurer.
R. W. HENRY REYNOLDS, Grand Secretary.
R. W. REV. J. PENMAN, Grand Chaplain.

W.: GEO. L. BECKER, Grand Marshal.
 W.: LOT MOFFET, Grand Sword Bearer.
 W.: L. E. THOMPSON, Grand Standard Bearer.
 W.: J. H. STEVENS, Grand Senior Deacon.
 W.: GEO. T. VAIL, Grand Junior Deacon.
 W.: W. W. PHELPS, Grand Pursuivant.
 W.: O. T. HAYES, Senior Grand Steward.
 W.: B. PRESLEY, Junior Grand Steward.

PAST GRAND OFFICERS.

M.: W.: A. E. AMES, Past Grand Master.
 M.: W.: MOSES SHERBURNE, Past Grand Master.
 R.: W.: D. F. BRAWLEY, Past Deputy Grand Master.
 R.: W.: C. T. STEARNS, Past Senior Grand Warden.
 R.: W.: A. VAN VORHES, Past Senior Grand Warden.

REPRESENTATIVES.

D. B. Loomis, St. John's □, No. 1, Worshipful Master.
 Wm. Holcomb, " " Senior Warden.
 L. E. Thompson, " " Junior Warden.
 P.: M.: W. H. Mower, F. K. Bartlett.
 H. Reynolds, Cataract □, No. 2, Worshipful Master.
 Geo. T. Vail, " " Senior Warden.
 C. Woodley, " " Junior Warden.
 P.: M.: M. W. Getchell.
 R. R. Bryant, Hennepin □, No. 4, Worshipful Master.
 Joseph Dean, " " Senior Warden.
 Joel B. Bassett, " " Junior Warden.
 P.: M.: D. M. Coolbaugh,
 I. P. Wright, Ancient Landmark No. 5, Worshipful Master.
 Geo. W. Prescott, " " Senior Warden.
 C. W. Carpenter, " " Junior Warden.
 Thos. Lombard, Shakopee □, No. 6, Worshipful Master.
 R. M. Wright, " " Senior Warden.
 J. H. Browne, " " Junior Warden.
 P.: M.: A. G. Chatfield, E. G. Covington.
 A. C. Smith, St. Paul □, No. 3, Worshipful Master.
 N. W. Kittson, " " Senior Warden.
 Martin Drew, " " Junior Warden.
 P.: M.: Lot Moffet, D. W. C. Dunwell, Wm. P. Murray.
 Orrin T. Hays, Dakota □, No. 7, Worshipful Master.
 John Rhodes, " " Senior Warden.
 Chas. Bigelow, " " Junior Warden.
 P.: M.: Wm. Lee,
 W.: W.: Phelps, Red Wing □, No. 8, Worshipful Master.
 Thos. J. Smith, " " Senior Warden.
 J. H. Brand, " " Junior Warden.
 P.: M. Wm. Ladd.

Printed Proceedings of the last Grand Annual Communication being in the hands of the members, the reading thereof by the Grand Secretary, was dispensed with.

Brother A. C. Smith offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the Most Worshipful Grand Master be requested to defer his address until the afternoon session.

Resolved, That all Master Masons in good and regular standing in the Territory, be invited to take seats in this Grand □.

Brother R. R. Bryant offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That this Grand ☐ proceed to the election of its officers on Wednesday, at 2½ P. M.

Brother A. C. Smith offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That Sec. 93, of title 3, of the General Resolutions of this G. ☐, be amended by striking out all after the word "Master," and inserting, "At the earliest practical period after the opening of such General Annual Communication;" also, by striking out in the 7th subdivision of said section, all after the word "business," and inserting at the end of said section, "The Committee on Foreign Correspondence shall report at the succeeding Communication after their appointment."

The Grand Secretary requested information respecting the registry fee for membership.

On motion, the matter was referred to a select committee of three.

Ordered, that Brothers Getchell, Ladd, and Smith, be said committee.

Brother A. C. Smith offered the following resolution, which, on motion, was referred to the Committee on Ancient Landmarks :

Resolved, That the General Regulations of this Grand ☐ be amended by striking out Sec. 81 of Art. 1st.

Also in Sec. 92, of title 2, of said Regulations, by striking out the word "for" in the first line, and insert "by order of:" also, in fourth line, by striking out the word "not," and adding at the end of the section the following, "in such cases only when the security in the opinion of said board shall become insufficient or of doubtful character."

The M. W. Grand Master then announced the following standing committees :

Upon the Work of ☐ under Dispensation, Bros. M. W. Getchell, I. P. Wright, W. W. Phelps.

To examine and report upon the Returns of Subordinate ☐, Bros. W. H. Mower, Geo. T. Vail, and R. M. Wright.

To examine the Books and Vouchers of the Grand Treasurer and Secretary, Bros. D. B. Loomis, Thos. Lombard, and Jos. Dean.

To examine Visiting Brethren, Bros. M. W. Getchell, E. G. Covington.

On Appeals and Grievances, Bros. A. C. Smith, I. P. Wright, D. M. Coolbaugh, W. H. Mower, W. W. Phelps.

On Foreign Correspondence, Bros. Geo. W. Prescott, H. Reynolds, and W. W. Phelps.

On Ancient Landmarks, Bros. A. E. Ames, A. C. Smith and Geo. W. Prescott.

On Unfinished Business, Bros. R. R. Bryant, N. W. Kittson and John Rhodes.

The Grand Secretary announced that Mr. Isaac Brown, who was

expelled from Hennepin ☐, No. 4, in 1855, had deposited in his office for filing, an appeal from said sentence.

On motion, the appeal was referred to the Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

The Grand Secretary announced that the work, &c., of Pioneer ☐ U. D., Pacific ☐ U. D., Henderson ☐ U. D., Fari-bault ☐ U. D., Wapahasa ☐ U. D., and St. Cloud ☐ U. D., had been laid on his table, and that their representatives asked for charters; which, on motion, were referred to the Committee on Work of ☐ U. D.

On motion, the Grand ☐ was called from labor to refreshment until 2 o'clock, P. M.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Grand ☐ was called from refreshment to labor. M. W. A. T. C. Pierson, Grand Master, presiding, then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

Brethren of the Grand ☐:—The first General Assembly of Masons, of which we have now any record, (owing to the fact that the earlier records were destroyed by some over-scrupulous brethren in the beginning of the eighteenth century,) was held in the year two hundred and eighty-seven. Over that body, St. Albans, the proto-martyr, presided as Grand Master.

The pages of history are silent as to another General Assembly, until the year nine hundred and twenty-six. In that year Prince Edwin, the grandson of Alfred the Great, obtained from his brother Athelstane, King of England, permission for the Craft to "hold a Yearly Communication, or General Assembly," at the city of York. For many centuries the Annual Communications continued to be held at that city, and from that circumstance arose the term "York Masons."

Those General Assemblies, or Annual Communications, all the members of the Craft, even to the youngest Entered Apprentices, were privileged to attend, and each was allowed a "voice and a vote in all its deliberations."

Masonry, although at all times adhered to, and supported by the wise men of the age, either flourished or languished as it was encouraged or opposed by the reigning family.

During the reign of Queen Anne, the Craft was in a languishing condition, many of the ☐ ceased to work, until at the revival in A. D., 1717, there were but four working ☐ in the south of England, and all of them in London, viz: No. 1, or St. Paul, (now the ☐ of Antiquity,) held at the Goose & Gridiron; No. 2, held at the Crown; No. 3, held at the Apple Tree Tavern; and No. 4, held at the Rummer and Grapes Tavern.

During the latter part of the reign of Queen Anne, and the commencement of the reign of George 1st, the General Assemblies, or Yearly Communications, had been discontinued; for says Preston, in his History:

"Sir Christopher's (Wren) age and infirmities drawing off his attention from the duties of his office, the ☐ decreased and the Annual Festivals were entirely neglected."

The year seventeen hundred and seventeen witnessed the commencement of a Revival of Masonry, which has steadily continued, until now Masons are found, and ☐ are working, in every clime, and in almost every country on this globe.

The four ☐ remaining, determined to revive the Annual Communications, and if possible devise some measures to insure the future pros-

perity of the Craft; they accordingly met on St. John the Baptist's day, in the above named year, and proceeded to elect a Grand Master, &c.

At this Communication it was determined that hereafter no ☐ should be deemed legal, (except the original four,) unless authorized by a warrant from the Grand Master, and approved by the Grand ☐. The privilege of meeting had previous to that time been subject to no rule, except as to number. The requisite number could convene at any time or place, choose a Master, and proceed to work.

From the year mentioned, (A. D., 1717) Grand ☐, in the present acceptance of the term, must date their existence, as from this year none but the Master and Wardens were commanded to attend the Annual Communications, and none others were allowed to participate in its Legislative proceedings; from this year, too, ☐ were allowed to confer the second and third degrees, which appears to have been previously restricted to the Annual Communications.

The office of Grand Master, however, is coeval with Masonry; for the General Assemblies elected a Grand Master, whose duty it was to superintend the Craft; in addition to convening and presiding, it was his duty, at the opening of each General Assembly, to address the Craft, advise them of his action during the recess, offering such suggestions for the future as his judgment, or experience of the past deemed advisable; such action has now, my brethren, become my duty.

The Grand Annual Communication of the Grand ☐ of Minnesota, has commenced its fourth session. From three comparatively feeble ☐, we have increased in four years to eight chartered ☐, and eleven under dispensation; and more applying for authority to work.

We have abundant reason, my brethren, to render thanks to the Supreme Giver of all good; we miss none cut off by death since our organization; and if my information be correct, our ☐ have been called upon during the year past to mourn for but one "departed to that country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

I must congratulate you, brethren, on the state of the Craft in our jurisdiction. Peace and harmony exist in all our ☐. Our jurisdiction is one where the principles of Masonry are subject to the severest tests, particularly that portion which teaches us "to do to others as we would they should do to us"—a new country rapidly filling up with immigration from every state in this confederacy, and every nation in the civilized world,—towns springing up throughout its length and breadth, "like Jonah's gourd in a night,"—claims imperfectly made suddenly becoming valuable,—rivalry as to locations of county seats, and the division of counties, pecuniary interests clashing everywhere,—brethren, and so many of them in every county and township,—is it not wonderful that with such conflicting interests our Territory o'er, dissensions, envy and malice should not enter and control our ☐? No, 'tis not wonderful, for where the principles of Masonry are practiced, no dissensions, discord, envy or malice can enter—all must of necessity be peace, harmony, union. What other human institution presents to the world such a picture?

At the last Grand Annual Communication a new Constitution was adopted; the Grand Master was instructed to issue a proclamation or edict, declaring it to be in full force, so soon as he should be advised of its adoption by two-thirds of the Subordinate ☐. The proclamation was made on the first day of May, and each of the ☐ furnished with approved, bound copies of the Constitution.

Early in April an application was made to me by Brother D. A. Robertson, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Historical Society, to lay with Masonic ceremonies the foundation stone for a building which they propose erecting for the accommodation of the society. In compliment to our Craft, they named St. John the Baptist's day for the ceremonies.

It was the first time that the Fraternity in the North-west had been called upon to perform such a ceremony; again, there had never been a public celebration by the whole Craft in the Territory. On referring to the writings of "those who have gone before," I find that about the earliest notice we have of the Craft, is an account of the public cere-

nies in laying the foundation and corner-stones of buildings erected for public purposes. Having antiquity to sustain me, and believing that a public display would be advantageous to the Craft, I summoned them to assist me; every [] was represented, some of the brethren coming 150 miles to be present; the work was done after the ancient manner. Advantage was taken of there being so many brethren (over 200) assembled, to lay, on the same day, the corner-stone of our building. I say *our*, because the stock is all owned by brethren, and I hope soon will be by the Grand []. And here permit me to notice, as I wish to bring the matter before the Grand [] for action, that a number of brethren, desirous that the Craft in this city should have some permanent place of meeting which should be controlled by the Craft exclusively, and fitted up for the performance of the peculiar ceremonies of Masonry, in the various grades of advancement; feeling, too, perhaps, some little pride in the reputation of the Craft in this jurisdiction, and ambitious not to be behind brethren in some of the older jurisdictions, and having so many noble examples to stimulate exertions, determined, notwithstanding the difficulties in the way from our comparatively few numbers, expensiveness and high rates of interest, to undertake the task of erecting a building which would be alike creditable to the Craft and Territory, and compare favorably with those erected by our brethren in the old settled parts of our country. When we reflect that but about six years had elapsed since the first [] was established in the Territory, and that in very many States where the Craft had been flourishing for half a century, no building owned by the Craft exclusively had been erected, the undertaking, to say the least, was a bold one. The legislature was applied to, and an act of incorporation obtained granting all the powers asked or required, under the name of "The Masonic Building Association." The stock, divided into twelve hundred shares, of fifty dollars each, brethren promptly subscribed to the amount of six hundred shares, which was then thought to be sufficient. A Board of Directors was chosen and organized; two lots have been purchased in the most central part of the city of St. Paul, and the work commenced.

The building is to be 100 feet by 80 feet in depth, and three stories high in addition to the basement, of 12, 14, 18, and 19 feet respectively, to be built of stone excavated from the cellar. The third story is to be used for Masonic purposes exclusively, and so arranged as to accommodate all the [] in St. Paul, or that may be for years to come; as also the Chapter, Council, and Commandery. The whole, including land, will cost about \$50,000. Offers have been made to lease that portion of the building designed for rent, for periods of from five to ten years, at \$9,500 per year.

My object in alluding to this matter so at length, is to arrest the attention of the Grand [], that you, brethren, may be prepared to act upon a recommendation as to the surplus funds of the Grand []; they are now lying idle, and there is no good reason why they should not be invested so as to increase our assets. At the close of the present Communication we will have about \$1000 of available funds. What better investment can be made than erecting a Masonic Home? or one more safe and profitable? The stock is morally certain to pay from twenty to thirty per cent., and the land constantly increasing in value. In the course of a few years the Grand [] would become the owner of the property, affording an income amply sufficient to meet her own expenses, found a Masonic library, and means to relieve worthy distressed brethren, "traveling from afar," in addition to relieving the wants of the distressed, and the widows and orphans of our own jurisdiction.

By act of the Territorial Legislature the Grand [], and all of its Subordinates, are chartered and authorized to hold and transfer real estate.

I have granted eleven dispensations for the establishment of new [], during the year, as follows:

Feb. 22, Hokah [], at Hokah, Houston County. March 3, Faribault [], Faribault, Rice County. March 10, Mankato [], Mankato, Blue Earth County. May 1, Winona [], Winona, Winona County. July 4, Pioneer [], Mantorville, Dodge Co. July 14, Pacific [], St. Paul, Ramsey County. Oct. 22, Henderson [], Henderson, Sibley County. Oct.

22, Monticello ☐, Monticello, Stearns County. Oct. 22, Wapahasa ☐, Wabashaw, Wabashaw County. Nov. 1, Pleasant Grove ☐, Pleasant Grove, Olmstead County. Nov. 1, St. Cloud ☐, St. Cloud, Stearns Co.

The rules I adopted in reference to applications for dispensations for the establishment of new ☐, are

1st. Where the applicants were not personally known to me, to require a recommendation by the nearest ☐.

2d. Required that at least three of the applicants were capable of conferring each of the three Degrees.

3d. That there was sufficient quarry to work, and discrimination among the applicants to select only such materials as would stand the test of the Grand Overseer's Square.

4th. That a suitable room had been prepared capable of being close tyed, and,

5th. That there was no ☐ so near as to be injured by the establishment of a new one.

Early in the year an application was made to me by several German brethren, for a dispensation to establish a German ☐ in St. Paul. The list of applicants was headed by a brother long known as the Worshipful Master of Modestia, (German) ☐, of Buffalo, New York. After due consideration and consultation with the R.: W.: D.: G.: M.:, on whose judgment I place much reliance, I declined to grant a dispensation, as,

1st. There were three working ☐ in St. Paul, amply sufficient to do all the work required.

2d. The establishment of a ☐, working and keeping their records in a language with which none of the Grand Officers are acquainted, is of at least doubtful expediency.

Subsequent events, which will hereafter be explained to the Grand ☐, confirmed the opinion of the inexpediency of granting the petition.

An application has recently been received for a dispensation to establish a ☐ at Wasioja, in Dodge County. This place is but four miles from Mantorville, at which point a ☐ was established in August last; believing that the establishment of another ☐ so near, and so soon, would be prejudicial to the interests of the ☐ at Mantorville, as likewise to the Craft generally, I have declined taking any action; the papers will be laid before you by the R.: W.: Grand Secretary.

With one exception, I have visited all the ☐ in the jurisdiction the past year.

The ceremonial is very uniform, but the language used never was, and probable never will be identical in each ☐, even in the same jurisdiction. So long as the esoteric work of Masonry depends for its perpetuity upon the memory of man, so long variation in language must be expected; it is only surprising that there is not more diversity. Provided the ideas conveyed are the same, and correct, it is perhaps immaterial in what language those ideas may be clothed; but the old language is always the best, makes the strongest impression, and assists in supporting our claims to antiquity.

A few subjects that I deem of particular and vital importance to the Craft in our jurisdiction, and to which my attention was especially called in my visitations to the Subordinate ☐, I beg leave to notice.

1st. *Investigating Committees.* It is often the case when committees are called upon to report, for one of them to premise "that his business had claimed his entire attention since his appointment," or to offer some other excuse for non-attention to his duties, that he had spoken to one or two persons, they knew nothing *against* the applicant, guessed he was a good man, would report favorable. Reports of such a character should never be accepted by the Worshipful Master. The whole superstructure of Masonry depends upon the admission of candidates; are they all good men, and true? the ☐ must prosper—dissensions and discord will be unknown. This fact can only be ascertained by careful investigation. Is not due investigation made, those may be admitted, and often are, who, in a short time, have to be suspended or expelled, or, perchance, are permitted to retain membership at the expense of the good name of the brotherhood. Great care should be exercised in the selection of such commit-

tees; appointing those, and those only, who are regular and punctual in their attendance on the Communications of the ☐—brethren, who, by their every day life and conduct prove that they have the good of the Craft at heart; who are willing to devote their time when necessary in the discharge of their duties, and fearless in performing them. The reports should not be accepted from a minority, nor even a majority, but from the whole number appointed; each should investigate, and each report; each brother of the ☐ should consider himself as bound to report to the committee, to the ☐ (as of old) or to the Worshipful Master, anything bearing upon the fitness of the candidate “to be received among our number,” to the end that the ☐ may have all the light possible on which to act. The investigation should be managed prudently and quietly, and extend to moral, physical, intellectual, and social qualities. The explanations given of the first three named qualities by that distinguished Masonic author, Albert G. Mackey, M. D., of Charleston, S. C., is so clear and forcible, that I am constrained to repeat them here; he says:

“Morally, the candidate must be a man of irreproachable conduct, the believer in the existence of God, and living under the tongue of good report.

“Physically, he must be a man of at least twenty-one years of age, upright in body, with the senses of a man, not deformed or dismembered, but with hale and hearty limbs, as a man ought to be.

“Intellectually, he must be a man in the full possession of his intellect, not so young that his mind shall not have been formed, nor so old that it shall have fallen into dotage, neither a fool, an idiot, nor a madman; and with so much education as to enable him to avail himself of, (and appreciate) the teachings of Masonry, and to cultivate at his leisure a knowledge of the principles and doctrines of the Royal Art.”

Socially, he should be one whom you would be willing to introduce to your families, should be ever ready to extend the hand of charity, should be open and generous in his nature, of enlarged views. A bigot, a miser, or a talebearer, never makes a good Mason. Were committees prompt and faithful in investigations, and fearless in reports, a ☐ would seldom, if ever, be imposed upon by the admission of unworthy members.

2d. *As to Advancement.* At the present day all the business of a ☐ is done in the third degree, hence initiates are anxious to be advanced. It is not uncommon for them to present themselves at the next Communication, for advancement, knowing nothing of the lectures, remembering none of the reasons for, or teachings of our beautiful and time-honored ceremonies. Advancement under such circumstances, is not only detrimental to the craft at large, but of positive injustice to the initiate. The knowledge of our mysteries is obtained by steps, or degrees; to each has been assigned a beautiful ceremony, calculated to make deep and lasting impressions on the mind, and teaching important truths. The first Degree emblematically represents the entrance of man in a state of helpless indigence upon this, his mortal existence, forcibly inculcates the striking lesson of natural equality and mutual dependence; teaching by the use of symbols and ceremonies of no recent date, to extend the hand of charity to all deserving objects. And how beautifully are the four cardinal virtues, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice, and the tenets Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, illustrated. But above all, it teaches man to bend the knee with reverence, humility and resignation, to T. G. A. O. T. U., and to look to him for his blessing on all laudable undertakings. The second Degree unveils the secrets of nature and the principles of moral truth; man learns to estimate the wondrous faculties with which he has been endowed by the Supreme Being, after whose image he is formed, and feels the duties thereby imposed on him; that by diligent cultivation he may render himself useful in promoting the happiness of mankind. The third Degree invites contemplation on the awful subject of death, and teaches that to the just and virtuous man death has no terrors equal to the stain of falsehood and dishonor; and by simple but expressive symbols further teaches, that even this perishable frame contains an immortal part, which, when our weak and frail bodies shall become cold and inanimate, soars away to the God who gave it.

Such, my brethren, is a brief synopsis of the teachings of Masonry. Are they not worthy the attention of any man? And if worthy of a thought, are they not of sufficient importance to be seriously and attentively studied? Many Grand [] Constitutions require a stated time to intervene between Degrees, as one month. The Grand [] of Hanover has perhaps the most stringent rules on this subject. I quote: "No brother can be elected an officer of a [] until he has been three years a Master Mason. A fellow craft must work at least a year in that Degree before he can be admitted to a third Degree. An Entered Apprentice must remain at least two years in that Degree."

With all due deference to the opinions of those distinguished brethren who differ with me, I am constrained to believe that our own Grand [] has adopted the right ground. Sec. 22, Title 4, "nor shall the second or third degree be conferred until the candidate has proved his proficiency in the preceding degree, by a satisfactory examination in open [], except by dispensation from the Grand Master or his Deputy."

We often hear the question asked, "Has he made suitable proficiency?" Did you ever hear "How long has he served?" "*So far as time and circumstances would permit*"—is a new phrase, and cannot be used in this jurisdiction if the Constitution of the Grand [] is complied with. The examination should extend to the first and second sections of the Entered Apprentice, and first section of the Fellow Craft's Degrees. Parties claiming to be Masons are frequently rejected at the doors of [] for the want of sufficient information to prove themselves such. *Never let such a circumstance occur to a Mason in Minnesota.*

We occasionally hear of brethren being remiss in their duties to their fellows. It is my opinion that in such cases the difficulty is caused by a want of knowledge of what those duties are. All who seek our portals expect that some new truth will be unfolded to them, some new motives of action presented to their minds; have an idea that Masons have their own peculiar laws and regulations—which they pre-determine to be governed by and obey; hence if they fail it is for a want of knowledge. Bright Masons are always good ones (the exceptions prove the rule).

Masonry does not claim to change the hearts of men, but does claim to present such motives of action, such rules for man's every day life, as if complied with, must of necessity make him better, happier. Our mysteries are taught in such a peculiar way, that they are particularly fascinating to an imaginative mind. To all who dig deep (and it is required,) secrets are unfolded, which it was beyond the power of man to originate; they are of such a nature that the mind of man never tires of investigating when it once starts on the tour; so many beauties are discovered hidden beneath the symbols and ceremonies, that the mind assimilates and gradually forms the character. If you, my brethren, would have faithful, active, attentive Masons, and make the [] room attractive, give each candidate a thorough examination before advancing.

3d. Keeping the Records.

Perhaps one of the most important matters connected with the well being of the [], is keeping the records properly. Punctuality, accuracy, and promptness, are essentially necessary. The records should be made up and read at the close of each Communication, to the end that errors, if any, be corrected while the brethren are present, and the transactions fresh in the mind. The Secretary should promptly pay over to the Treasurer all his receipts on account of the [], and be sure and take a receipt therefor. No moneys should be paid out except by the approval of the brethren, and record made of the whole transaction. The want of accuracy and system in the financial affairs of a [], is the cause of more trouble and heartburnings than any other one thing. When Secretaries are absent from the Communications of the [] two or three times successively, confusion is apt to arise, particularly if the [] are doing much work; the money gets into several hands, perchance the fees are not collected, or when the time for settlement comes, the pro. tem. Secretary has forgotten whether fees were collected, or to whom paid. *No harm was ever done in giving or requiring receipts for money paid.*

Masonry in this jurisdiction, as everywhere, is becoming very popular;

the portals of our ☐ are crowded with applicants. At such times if possible, more than ordinary vigilance should be exercised by the brethren, but pursue the course I have endeavored to lay before you, and I have no fears for the result, viz :

Investigate—thoroughly, faithfully.

Report—truly, fearlessly.

Advance—only after due proficiency.

And finally, brethren, for I fear I have already tired your patience, permit me to say in the language of a brother long since gone to meet his reward :

“Stretch forth your hands to assist a brother whenever it is in your power; be always ready to go anywhere to serve him; offer up your warmest petition for his welfare; open your breasts and hearts to him; assist him with your best counsel and advice; sooth the anguish of his soul, and betray no confidence he reposes in you; support him with your authority; use your utmost endeavor to prevent him from falling; relieve his wants as far as you are able without injury to yourself or your families. In short, mutually to support and assist each other, and earnestly to promote one another's interest, are duties which (as you well know) are incumbent upon you. You are connected by solemn promises; let those always be so remembered as to direct your actions; for then and then only, will you preserve your consciences void of offence, and preserve that firm cement of utility and affection which time will have no power to destroy.

The following report was received, and the resolution adopted :

The Committee on Work of ☐ U. . D. ., respectfully report :

That they have had under examination the proceedings and applications for charters of the following ☐ U. . D. . :

Mantorville ☐ , at Mantorville, Dodge county. Pacific ☐ , at St. Paul, Ramsey county. Henderson ☐ , at Henderson, Sibley county. Faribault ☐ , at Faribault, Rice county. Wapahasa ☐ , at Wabashaw, Wabashaw county. St. Cloud ☐ , at St. Cloud, Stearns county, and Mankato ☐ , at Mankato, Blue Earth county.

And your committee from such examination, approve such Proceedings, and respectfully offer the following resolution :

Resolved, That charters be issued to the above named ☐ , upon their depositing the fees required by the Constitution of this Grand ☐ .

M. W. GETCHELL,	} Committee.
I. P. WRIGHT,	
W. W. PHELPS.	

Brother A. C. Smith offered the following resolutions, which were adopted :

Resolved, That so much of the Grand Master's address as refers to investment of Grand ☐ funds, be referred to a select committee of three.

That so much thereof as refers to a German ☐ and one at Wasioja, be referred to a select committee of three.

That so much thereof as relates to examination before advancement, be referred to a select committee of three.

Resolved, That all subjects contained in said address, not hereinbefore referred, be referred to a select committee of three.

The M. . W. . Grand Master announced the appointment of the committees upon the address :

On the investment of the Grand ☐ funds, Bros. Lombard, Thompson, and Hayes.

On the subject of the German ☐ and ☐ at Wasioja, Bros. A. C. Smith, Coolbaugh and Getchell.

On the examination of candidates before advancement, Brothers Loomis, I. P. Wright and Bryant.

On the residue of the address, Brothers Prescott, Phelps, and Dean.

On motion the Grand ☐ was called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at 9½ o'clock, A. M.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1857, 9½ O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Grand ☐ was called from refreshment to labor.

M.: W.: A. T. C. Pierson, Grand Master, presiding. The reading of the minutes of yesterday's Proceedings was dispensed with.

Brother M. W. Getchell offered the following resolution, as an amendment to the Constitution :

Resolved, That section 32, title 4, of the Constitution, be amended by striking out all after the word "continues" in the last line.

On motion the above was adopted by a two-third vote, and ordered to be sent to the Subordinate ☐ for their approval.

Brother A. C. Smith, from the committee to whom was referred the question of the Grand Secretary on the subject of dues, presented the following minority report :

The minority of your committee to whom was referred the subject of membership dues and registry fees of ☐ U.: D.: have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report :

That in the opinion of your committee, section 32 of the Constitution, takes a correct view of the character and position of ☐ U.: D.:, and of the members thereof.

In the Methodical Digest of the laws of the Grand ☐ of Virginia, in Chapter eleven, section three, it is laid down that before application can be made to the Grand ☐ by brethren already members of a ☐, for a charter to form a new one, the applicant shall pay up all dues to their ☐ and notify them in writing that they intend applying for a charter to establish a new ☐.

Whenever a charter shall issue from the Grand ☐ to form a new ☐, it shall be accompanied by a dispensation to some P.: M.: to appoint his Wardens, and install the officers of the new ☐, and set them to work agreeably to ancient customs and usages, but the Master of the new ☐ shall previously receive his Degree in the presence of three Past Masters at least, *and all these things must be done* before the new ☐ can be entitled to representation in the Grand ☐.

These doctrines your committee believe to be sound and in accordance with the provision of the section of our Constitution above referred to, and upon this basis, and this alone, your committee have arrived at the conclusions contained in this report.

When a requisite number of brethren assume the responsibilities and prerogatives of a ☐ U.: D.:, they do so with the assent, and under the personal supervision of the M.: W.: G.: M.:, and for their conduct are amenable to him alone, and for which privilege, the brethren named are required to advance the sum of \$20.00.

The members proposing to form a new ☐ should give notice in writing to their respective ☐ of their intention, and pay up their dues, and the moment they are authorized to act U.: D.: as a ☐, they become by their own voluntary act, suspended members of the ☐ or ☐ from which they previously hailed. The term "suspension," if implying anything, implies an entire cessation of both privileges and responsibilities during its

continuance, so that a brother acting U. D., is not, while so acting, entitled to any of the privileges of the ☐ from whence he hailed, and can not be held in any way amenable to it, either personally or pecuniarily.

That ☐ U. D. should be held accountable to the Grand ☐ under the direction of the Grand Master for the same fees as are provided for in other cases, except as hereinafter stated. Under the provisions of our Constitution, ☐ U. D. have no representation, and should not, therefore, be taxed for its support. The principle which formed one of the political pillars on which rested the justice of the American Declaration of Independence, may not, strictly speaking, be applicable to the Masonic Order, but the exception, if any, proves that justice rests as strongly on the unity of representation and taxation here, as elsewhere.

Again, it seems clear to your committee that if the ☐ U. D. should not receive a charter, the names of the brothers returned with the dispensation could not be entered upon the registry, and hence, that no fee for such entry could accrue against said ☐ U. D., until the first Annual Communication after the issuing of a charter.

Your committee further believe that the Masons receiving a dispensation are entrusted with certain well-defined, specified and limited powers, and are held personally responsible for the proper discharge of their duty; that they can not divide that responsibility at their option, by the admission to membership of *any other* Master Masons, and hence, that *no membership* fee could Masonically accrue against a ☐ U. D.

From the foregoing argument, your committee would therefore deduce the following results:

1st. That ☐ U. D., with the Constitution as it now stands, should not be taxed for dues in support of this Grand ☐, unless they are allowed an equivalent representation therein.

2nd. That no registry can be made of a ☐ U. D., and hence no fees, and

3d. That ☐ U. D., have not the power to "admit members," and hence, no membership fees can be charged to said ☐ U. D.

While upon the subject referred to them, your committee feel it their duty to recommend to this Grand ☐ a modification of the clause in sec. 89, title 2, of the regulations relative to the adjoining fee, so that it will read as follows:

"For each and every Master Mason from without the jurisdiction of this Grand ☐, admitted to membership within the same, fifty cents."

And that the registry fee be abolished.

A. C. SMITH,

Minority of the Committee.

On motion the above report was laid on the table and indefinitely postponed.

Brother M. W. Getchell, from the same committee, submitted the following report:

Your committee to whom was referred the question of dues from ☐ U. D., have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the brethren who work a ☐ U. D. are liable to the several ☐ from which they hail, for dues; and those ☐ must pay dues for them to the Grand ☐, the only dues chargeable to a ☐ U. D., being one dollar for each Degree conferred.

Resolved, That the Registry fee be abolished.

M. W. GETCHELL.

On motion, the above report was received, and the resolutions severally adopted; the last by a two-thirds vote.

The following report was received:

The Committee on Ancient Landmarks, in discharge of their duty, would respectfully beg leave to recommend the Grand ☐ to amend section 92, of

title 2, of said regulations, as follows: Strike out the words "by order of," also, in fourth line, strike out the word "not," and add at the end of the section as follows: "In such cases only when the security, in the opinion of said Board, shall become insufficient or of doubtful character."

A. E. AMES, } Committee.
A. C. SMITH. }

Which amendment to the regulations, was, on motion, unanimously adopted.

The following report was received:

The committee to whom was referred so much of the address of the G. . Master as relates to the application of brothers for advancement in the Subordinate ☐, would respectfully report:

That they have had the matter under advisement, and are of the opinion that proficiency and not time which may have elapsed after initiation, should in all cases be the test to govern ☐ in their action, and would therefore respectfully recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, That it be recommended to all ☐ within this jurisdiction, when application is made to them by brothers for advancement, to require the applicant for the F. . C. . Degree, previous to his receiving the Degree, to be able to give the first Section of the Lecture appertaining to the E. . A. . Degree, and when applying for the Degree of Master Mason he should, in addition to the foregoing, be required to give the first Section of the Lecture on the F. . C. . Degree.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. B. LOOMIS, } Committee.
I. P. WRIGHT, }
R. R. BRYANT. }

On motion, the above report was indefinitely postponed.

The Grand Secretary announced that the Proceedings, &c., of Monticello ☐, U. . D. ., were on his table, and on motion, they were referred to the committee on Work of ☐ U. . D. .

The Grand Secretary read a communication from the Masonic Fraternity of St. Paul, inviting the officers and members of the Grand ☐ to a supper at the Fuller House, on Wednesday evening, at 9 o'clock.

On motion, the Grand Secretary was ordered to reply to the invitation, accepting the same on the part of the Grand ☐.

On motion, the Grand ☐ was called from labor to refreshment, until 2½ o'clock, P. M.

JANUARY 7, 1857, 2½ O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Grand ☐ was called from refreshment to labor, the M. . W. . A. T. C. Pierson, Grand Master, presiding.

The hour having arrived for the election of officers, as per resolution adopted on Tuesday, the following brethren were each elected to the offices named for the ensuing year:

M. . W. . A. T. C. PIERSON, Grand Master.
R. . W. . W. H. MOWER, Deputy Grand Master.
" " E. A. HODSPON, Grand Senior Warden.
" " WM. LEE, Grand Junior Warden.
" " E. CASE, Grand Treasurer.
" " GEO. W. PRESCOTT, Grand Secretary.

The following report was received :

The committee on Ancient Landmarks would respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That Section 81, of Title 1st, of the Regulations of this Grand ☐ be repealed.

A. E. AMES, }
A. C. SMITH. } Committee.

On motion, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Brother Orrin T. Hayes offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the Grand Annual Communication of this Grand ☐ shall be held in future on the first Tuesday in January.

On motion, the Grand ☐ was called from labor to refreshment, until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8th, 1857, 10 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Grand ☐ was called from refreshment to labor, M. W. A. T. C. Pierson, Grand Master, presiding.

The minutes of yesterday's Proceedings were read and approved.

The Grand Secretary announced that the Proceedings, &c., of Hokah ☐, U. D., and Winona ☐, U. D., were on his table, and on motion, they were referred to the committee on Work of ☐ U. D.:

The following report was received and adopted :

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Grand Master's Address as relates to the investment of the surplus funds of this Grand ☐, respectfully beg leave to report :

That they have had the subject under advisement, but, that since the matter was referred to them the Regulations of this Grand ☐ have been amended in such a manner as to relieve your committee somewhat from the embarrassment under which they labored, (they being somewhat divided in sentiment as to the recommendation of the Grand Master,) and would respectfully suggest that the whole matter be left to the Board of Trustees, subject to the Grand ☐, after mature deliberation.

THOS. LOMBARD, }
O. T. HAYES, } Committee.
L. E. THOMPSON. }

Brother A. C. Smith offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the Trustees be, and they are hereby authorized to make investments, in their judgment, or in the judgment of two-thirds thereof, of all such funds as remain in the Treasury, after paying all expenses, present and prospective, against the Grand ☐ during the current year, reserving the sum of two hundred dollars for contingencies. *Provided*, That such investment shall at any or all times be subject to the control of the Grand ☐.

The following report was received :

The committee on Appeals and Grievances have had under consideration the appeal of Brother Isaac Brown, from the sentence of expulsion pronounced on him by Hennepin ☐, No. 4, in this jurisdiction, and beg leave to submit the following report :

That the appeal of Brother Brown was made soon after the sentence was had, and prior to the last Annual Communication of this Grand []. That no certified copy of the proceedings were sent up to this Grand [], as required by the By-Laws of Hennepin [], No. 4, in all such cases, and that no such return has yet been received by the Grand Secretary. This, in the opinion of your committee, has been a palpable neglect of duty on the part of the then Secretary of said [], and for which, "Masonically," Hennepin [] must be held responsible. Your committee have therefore no data on which to review the merits of the case, and would therefore recommend that this Grand [] direct the Grand Secretary to require Hennepin [], No. 4, to make a certified return to this Grand [] within ninety days after the close of its present session, of all the proceedings had in the case before said [] against said Brown, and that in the meantime, the sentence of expulsion pronounced by said [] against said Brown, be declared suspended. The committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be, and he is hereby directed to notify Hennepin [], No. 4, of the action of this Grand [] in the case of Brother Brown, and require said [] to send to his office a certified and duly attested copy of all the proceedings had in the original trial of said cause, within sixty days after receiving said notice, and that the sentence of expulsion pronounced in said case be, and the same is hereby suspended until the next session of this Grand [].

A. C. SMITH,	} Committee.
D. M. COOLBAUGH,	
I. P. WRIGHT,	
W. H. MOWER,	
W. W. PHELPS.	

On motion, the above report and resolution were unanimously adopted.

Brother W. W. Phelps offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be requested to prepare a list of all Master Masons in good standing, as members of the several Subordinate [] in this jurisdiction, with their places of residence, and the [] to which they belong, and that the same be published with the Proceedings of this Grand [].

The following report was received:

The committee to whom was referred that portion of the Grand Master's Address which referred to the application for a German [] in this city, and also the application for a [] at Wasioja, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:

That the committee fully approve of the action of the Grand Master in refusing a Dispensation to an exclusive [] of German brethren, believing as we do, that no act should be done or recognized which will effect or tend to produce a caste of country or character among those who, as one common Fraternity, should meet on one common Level, act by one common Plumb, and part upon the same Square.

That in the case of Wasioja, your committee would recommend that the Grand Master be advised that it is the opinion of this Grand [], that without special reasons, no new [] should be established within ten miles of any existing [].

A. C. SMITH,	} Committee.
M. W. GETCHELL.	

On motion, the above report was adopted.

Brother R. R. Bryant offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Grand Master be requested to procure charters, print-

ed or lithographed, for the use of the Grand ☐, and that he befurther requested to take up the old charters, substituting the new ones, and procuring the signatures of the officers affixed to the old charter.

The following report was received :

The committee on Returns of ☐ would respectfully report, that they have had under examination the returns of the following named ☐, and with the exception of some slight informalities, owing to a misconception in regard to the Registry fees, find them correct :

St. John's ☐, No. 1; St. Paul ☐, No. 3; Ancient Landmark ☐, No. 5; Dakota ☐, No. 7; Wapahasa ☐, U. D.; Mankato ☐, U. D.; Pacific ☐, U. D.; Faribault ☐, U. D.; Hokah ☐, U. D.; Cataract ☐, No. 2; Hennepin ☐, No. 4; Shakopee ☐, No. 6; Red Wing ☐, No. 8; Mantorville ☐, U. D.; Henderson ☐, U. D.; Monticello ☐, U. D.; St. Cloud ☐, U. D.; Winona ☐, U. D.

WM. H. MOWER, }
GEO. T. VAIL. } Committee.
R. M. WRIGHT. }

The following report was received, and the resolutions adopted :

The Committee on Work of ☐ U. D., have had the work of Monticello ☐ U. D., Hokah ☐ U. D., and Winona ☐ U. D., under consideration, and beg leave to offer the following resolution :

Resolved, That charters be issued to Monticello ☐, No. 16, Hokah ☐, No. 17, and Winona ☐, No. 18, upon their depositing the fees required by the Constitution of this Grand ☐.

Your committee would state that they find some ☐ U. D. in their records, have used the terms "Adjourned," "met by appointment," "called off for two weeks," &c., which terms, in the opinion of your committee, are unknown to Masonry, but as their records appeared to be correct with this exception, and believing that they will promptly correct their error, we recommend that charters be granted to the applicants. And in conclusion, would offer the following resolution :

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Grand ☐, the terms "Adjourned," "met by appointment," "called off for two weeks," (or any other time, except for actual refreshment,) are terms unknown to Masoury, and should not be used in Masonic ☐.

M. W. GETCHELL, }
I. P. WRIGHT, } Committee.
W. W. PHELPS. }

Bro. R. R. Bryant offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That section forty-eight, in title six, of our Constitution, be stricken out and the following substituted in the stead thereof : "In pronouncing upon the guilt or innocence of an accused brother, the Worshipful Master shall order the Deacons to spread the ballots, and shall say, 'Brethren, we are about to ballot in the case of Brother _____. Those in favor of sustaining the charge will cast a white ball, and those who are of the opinion that the charge is not sustained, will cast a black ball.' The Worshipful Master shall then announce the ballot through his Wardens.

On motion, the above resolution was adopted by a two-third vote, and ordered to be sent to the Subordinate ☐ for their approval.

Brother R. R. Bryant offered the following resolution, which was lost :

Resolved, That the latter part of section forty-nine, title six, be stricken from our Constitution, which reads as follows : "Any brother failing to make known any facts pertinent to the question before the ☐, while settling in judgment on a case, is amenable to all the penalties of Masonic discipline."

Brother A. C. Smith offered the following resolutions, which were severally adopted :

Resolved, That the sum of one hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated as a full compensation to the Grand Secretary for his services during the past Masonic year.

Resolved, That the sum of twenty-five dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated as a full compensation to the Grand Tyler for his services during the present Communication.

Brother W. W. Phelps offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand ☐ are due, and are hereby cordially tendered to our worthy brother, Grand Secretary Henry Reynolds, for the efficient, courteous and faithful discharge of his arduous duties as Grand Secretary.

Bro. Hayes offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That it is inexpedient at this time to entertain the proposition of creating the office of Grand Lecturer.

On motion, the M. W. Grand Master appointed the committee to prepare a pay roll, consisting of Brothers Bryant, Phelps, and Hayes.

On motion, the Grand ☐ was called from labor to refreshment until 6½ o'clock, P. M.

JANUARY 8, 1857, 6½ O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Grand ☐ was called from refreshment to labor. M. W. A. T. C. Pierson, Grand Master, presiding. The following report was received :

The committee to whom was referred such portions of the M. W. Grand Master's address as were not referred to the other committees, would report :

That the law and the principles which should govern Masons, and the intent and teachings of Freemasonry, are, in our opinion, correctly laid down therein, and we earnestly recommend them to the careful attention of every Mason in Minnesota.

Your committee would further recommend, in accordance with the suggestion of our M. W. Grand Master, the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Grand ☐, Committees of inquiry upon petitions presented in the Subordinate ☐, should make particular personal inquiry into the Moral, Physical, Intellectual, and Social qualifications of the petitioners, and should not, in any case, rest satisfied with merely negative virtues, but should become convinced that the candidates will add to our moral as well as our numerical strength.

G. W. PRESCOTT, }
W. W. PHELPS, } Committee.
J. DEAN. }

On motion, the resolution was adopted.

Bro. M. W. Getchell, P. M., of Cataract ☐ No. 2, then proceeded to install M. W. A. T. C. Pierson, as M. W. Grand Master, for the ensuing year, and after having been saluted and congratulated in accordance with ancient custom,

Bro. M. W. Getchell proceeded to install W. Bro. Wm. H. Mower as Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing year.

On motion, the Grand ☐ was called from labor to refreshment, until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, A. M.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1857, 10 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The Grand ☐ was called from refreshment to labor. M. W. A. T. C. Pierson, Grand Master, presiding.

The minutes of yesterday's Proceedings were read and approved.

Brother A. C. Smith offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand ☐ be and the same are hereby tendered to Minnesota R. A. Chapter for the use of their Hall during the present Communication of this Grand ☐.

The following report was received :

The committee appointed to make out a Pay Roll of the Representatives of the several ☐ within this jurisdiction, have performed that duty, and beg leave to report that they find due to the Representatives of the several ☐ as follows :

LODGES.	No. Days.	Per Day.	Travel'g Expenses	Total.	
Saint John's <input type="checkbox"/> No. 1.....	5	\$3 00	\$4 00	\$19 00	D. B. Loomis.....
Cataract <input type="checkbox"/> No. 2.....	5	3 00	2 00	17 00	George T. Vail.....
Saint Paul <input type="checkbox"/> No. 3.....	5	3 00		15 00	A. C. Smith.....
Hennepin <input type="checkbox"/> No. 4.....	5	3 00	2 00	17 00	R. R. Bryant.....
Ancient Landmark <input type="checkbox"/> No. 5.....	5	3 00		15 00	I. P. Wright.....
Shakopee <input type="checkbox"/> No. 6.....	4	3 00	4 00	16 00	R. M. Wright.....
Dakota <input type="checkbox"/> No. 7.....	5	3 00	4 00	19 00	O. T. Hayes.....
Red Wing <input type="checkbox"/> No. 8.....	5	3 00	6 00	21 00	W. W. Phelps.....
				\$139 00	

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. R. BRYANT,
O. T. HAYES,
W. W. PHELPS. } Committee.

The Grand Treasurer made the following report :

1856. *E. Case in account with the Grand ☐ Charity Fund.*

January.	To balance as per report of 1855.....	\$180 82
May 9, '57.	To amount received from Grand Secretary,...	50 00
Jan. 9.	To amount received from Grand Secretary,...	790 43

Contra. \$1021 25

By order No. 7—for Charity,.....	\$ 50 00
By order No. 8—favor Grand Secretary,.....	100 00
By order No. 9—favor Grand Tyler,.....	25 00
	<u>\$175 00</u>

Balance on hand, \$846 25

I, E. Case, Grand Treasurer of the Grand ☐ of Minnesota, do hereby certify the foregoing to be correct, as per orders and vouchers in my possession.

Given under my hand this 9th day of January, 1857.

E. CASE, *Grand Treasurer.*

The Grand Secretary made the following report:

Henry Reynolds in account with Grand ☐ Fund.

Amount received from Mankato <input type="checkbox"/> U. D., for Dispensation,.....	\$20 00
do. do. Monticello do. do. do.	20 00
do. do. St. John's do. No. 1, for Dues,.....	17 00
do. do. Cataract do. No. 2, do.	67 50
do. do. St. Paul do. No. 3, do.	47 00
do. do. Hennepin do. No. 4, do.	37 70
do. do. An. Landmark No. 5, do.	109 50
do. do. Shakopee <input type="checkbox"/> No. 6, do.	63 50
do. do. Dakota do. No. 7, do.	46 10
do. do. Red Wing do. No. 8, do.	75 00
do. do. Faribault do. U. D. do.	20 00
do. do. Faribault do. do. do.	104 00
do. do. Faribault do. No. 9, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. Pacific do. U. D., for Dispensation,...	20 00
do. do. Pacific do. do. for Dues,.....	25 00
do. do. Pacific do. No. 10, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. Mankato do. U. D., for Dues,.....	2 00
do. do. Mankato do. No. 12, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. Mantorville do. U. D., for Dispensation,...	20 00
do. do. Mantorville do. do. for Dues,.....	4 00
do. do. Mantorville do. No. 11, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. Henderson do. U. D., for Dispensation,...	20 00
do. do. Henderson do. do. for Dues,.....	2 00
do. do. Wapahasa do. do. for Dispensation,...	20 00
do. do. Wapahasa do. do. for Dues,.....	0 00
do. do. Wapahasa do. No. 14, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. St. Cloud do. U. D., for Dispensation,...	20 00
do. do. St. Cloud do. do. for Dues,.....	3 00
do. do. St. Cloud do. No. 15, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. Monticello do. U. D., for Dues,.....	1 00
do. do. Monticello do. No. 16, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. Winona do. U. D., for Dispensation,...	20 00
do. do. Winona do. do. for Dues,.....	21 00
do. do. Winona do. No. 18, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. Hokah do. U. D., for Dispensation,...	20 00
do. do. Hokah do. do. for Dues,.....	30 00
do. do. Hokah do. No. 17, for Charter,.....	25 00
do. do. Pleasant Grove <input type="checkbox"/> U. D., for Dispensation,...	20 00
do. do. on hand from last Communication,.....	291 24

Contra.

\$1391 64

By order from Goodrich & Somers,.....	\$163 80
By order from Grand Tyler, (1856,).....	20 00
By order from Owens & Moore,.....	4 00
By amount paid Grand Treasurer,.....	50 00
By order from Grand Secretary,.....	150 00
By amount paid for Stationery, &c.,.....	3 25
By amount paid for Printing, Binding and Postage, &c.,	49 38
By am't paid on account of Celebration for Rods, Paint'g &c.	16 78
By am't paid order of M. W. G. M. for Charity,....	5 00
By am't paid Representatives as per report of Committee	
on Pay Roll,.....	139 00 601 21

790 43

By amount paid Grand Treasurer,

\$790 43

I, Henry Reynolds, Grand Secretary of the Grand ☐ of Minnesota, do hereby certify the foregoing to be correct, as per orders and vouchers in my possession.

Given under my hand this ninth day of January, A. D., 1857.

HENRY REYNOLDS, *Grand Secretary.*

On motion, the above reports were adopted.

The committee to whom was assigned the duty of examining the books of the Grand Treasurer, respectfully report, that they have attended to the duty assigned them, and find the books correctly kept; that proper vouchers are in the hands of the Grand Treasurer and Secretary respectively, for the disbursements made by them.

The accounts are as follows :

In hands of Grand Secretary from last Communication,	\$291 24
Amount received by him since,.....	1100 40
	<hr/>
	\$1391 64
Paid out by him as per vouchers,.....	\$551 21
Paid out by him to Grand Treasurer,.....	840 43
	<hr/>
	1391 64
In hands of Grand Treasurer as per report of 1855,.....	\$180 82
Amount received from Grand Secretary,.....	840 43
	<hr/>
	\$1021 25
Amount paid out as per vouchers,.....	175 00
	<hr/>
In Grand <input type="checkbox"/> Charity Fund subject to draft,.....	\$846 25

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. B. LOOMIS, } Committee.
J. DEAN.

Brother W. W. Phelps offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Grand ☐ are hereby cordially tendered to the brethren of the St. Paul ☐ for the invitation to the sumptuous complimentary supper by them given to this Grand ☐, at the Fuller House, on Wednesday evening, January 7th, 1857.

The M. : W. : Grand Master then proceeded to install the Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, after which the usual proclamation was made by the Grand Marshal.

Brother A. C. Smith offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare and report at the next Annual Communication of the Grand ☐, a suitable form of Grand ☐ Installation service for the use of this Grand ☐.

Ordered that Bros. A. C. Smith, Phelps, and Prescott be said committee.

The M. : W. : Grand Master announced the appointment of the following subordinate officers :

REV. J. PENMAN, St. Paul, Grand Chaplain.
GEO. L. BECKER, St. Paul, Grand Marshal.
THOS. J. SMITH, Red Wing, Grand Standard Bearer.
E. COVINGTON, Shakopee, Grand Sword Bearer.
E. S. FERRIS, M. D., Winona, Grand Senior Deacon.
B. PRESLEY, St. Paul, Grand Junior Deacon.
J. C. WHIPPLE, Faribault, Grand Pursuivant.
J. W. CROSBY, St. Paul, Senior Grand Steward.
S. E. ADAMS, Monticello, Junior Grand Steward.
A. RICHARDSON, St. Paul, Grand Tyler.

The Grand ☐ having disposed of all business before them, a

few brief remarks were made by the R. W. Grand Chaplain, after which he invoked the Throne of Divine Grace, and the Most Worshipful Grand ☐ of Minnesota was closed in ample form.

A. T. C. PIERSON, *Grand Master.*

GEO. W. PRESCOTT, *Grand Secretary.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence made the following report, which was received, and ordered to be spread upon the records :

To the M. W. Grand ☐ of Minnesota.

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh month, your committee received the Proceedings of the following Grand ☐ :

Connecticut, for May, 1854. Michigan, for January, 1855. District of Columbia, for May, 1855. Rhode Island, for June, 1855. Maryland, for November, 1855. Virginia, for December, 1855. Georgia, for October, 1855. North Carolina, for December, 1855. South Carolina, for December, 1855. Mississippi, for January, 1856. Florida, for January, 1856. Louisiana, for February, 1856. Kansas, for March, 1856. Indiana, for May, 1856. Maine, for May, 1856. New York, for June, 1856. California, for May, 1856. And about the middle of December, we received the Proceedings of the Grand ☐ in New Jersey, for January, 1856. Vermont, for January, 1856. Iowa, for June, 1856. Oregon, for June, 1856.

Devoting the very few spare hours which sickness and a peculiarly busy season have allowed for such labors, your committee have prepared a brief and superficial notice of the different Proceedings before it ; our only apology for *attempting* a work so important at so late a day, being a desire to "bring up the record," and dispose of the already accumulated material, before age had further lessened its interest. We begin with

CONNECTICUT.

Our latest and only report from this Grand ☐ is for May, 1854. The Grand Master in his address, says :

"This day brings us to our 65th Anniversary. We assemble this morning under circumstances more favorable and auspicious than at any other period of our Masonic history."

"We are apt to think," he continues in another place, "when

we have qualified ourselves to confer the Degrees in a creditable manner, that we have attained to a high position in the Order. It is certainly very creditable and praiseworthy to be what is termed a good workman, but that is of small importance when compared with a knowledge of the great principles of Freemasonry, its objects, the aims for which it contends, and the rules and regulations by which we are governed."

It strikes your committee that the terms "creditabile and praiseworthy," are hardly strong enough in that connection. We deem it an imperative duty that there be in every ☐ a sufficient working number to confer the Degrees, not only in full, but without stammering or stumbling. In "illustrating by symbols," the step is very short from a sublime reality to a ridiculous farce, and so long as the object of our ceremonies is to convey and impress lasting lessons—lessons of the gravest import and greatest importance—let every brother see to it that he thoroughly knows and thoroughly feels the part he has to perform.

With reference to conferring the Degrees upon more than one candidate at the same time, the Grand Master says: "It is clearly a departure from the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, which are entrusted to us to preserve." A resolution was passed by the Grand ☐, forbidding any Subordinate ☐ to initiate, pass, or raise more than one candidate at the same time, adopting the report of a committee to whom the subject was referred, who say, that after consulting with many of the oldest and most experienced Masons in the Grand ☐, it is their unanimous opinion that the practice so forbidden, is "highly improper, being an innovation upon the Ancient practice." If this be indeed so, a reform is very much needed in some of our ☐; and it has always seemed to us that even in the absence of any "Landmark," the second is the only Degree in which the candidate should be allowed company upon his journey. Upon his first admission he should travel alone, leaning upon no fellow novitiate to share his doubts, and with no companion to distract his attention.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is very lengthy, and what we have read of it is very interesting; but in consideration of its age, we content ourselves with making the following extract.

"To an observer of passing events, it can not be otherwise than gratifying to witness the even steps with which Freemasonry accompanies the advance of civilization and refinement, into the very heart of our vast western wilderness * * * Such is the estimation in which the principles of our beloved Order are held; that wherever the home of freedom is established, there also we listen, as a matter of course, for the sound of the gavel—nor do we listen in vain. The church, the school-house, and the Masonic ☐, are seen to grow up almost simultaneously in every spot

where American citizens find or create an opening in the forest; even on the extreme verge of civilization. Wherever the blessed gospel of 'peace and good will to men' is proclaimed, and the foundation of popular education laid, there the pure Masonic tenets of 'brotherly love, relief, and truth,' are found doing their share in the great work of moulding, and refining, and elevating the elements that are to constitute the moral, political, and religious character of the rising community."

MICHIGAN.

The address of the Grand Master is unfortunately in some "Appendix" which we can not find. If these Appendixes were bound with the Proceedings, there would be less danger of such unpleasant losses.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is short and good. The following extract is upon a subject which well merits all the attention it receives :

"But while we rejoice at the prosperity and extension of our Order everywhere prevalent, and while we see numbers crowding at our gates, and knocking at our doors for admission, it were well, perhaps, to pause a moment and inquire whether there is any danger in a too rapid extension; whether a large increase of numbers is a gain or loss; is a source of strength or an element of weakness. Your committee find everywhere, among the documents they have perused, cautions on this subject."

Cautions, we will add, which can not be too often repeated, nor too carefully heeded. There is a thousand times more danger of admitting the unworthy than of excluding the worthy.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

We have before us the Proceedings of this Grand ☐, from May to December, 1855. There are ten Subordinate ☐ returned as working under this jurisdiction. The Grand Master reports his decision upon the question, "whether a member, after the election of a candidate, could object to the conferring of the Degree without making known the nature of his objection, and whether the ☐ was bound by such objection." "I decided," says G. M. Frailey, "that he could, and that the ☐ could not confer the Degree, until the objections were withdrawn by the member making them."

In his address at the May Communication, the Grand Master says :

"No brother of his own accord should ever make known how he has cast his ballot, unless it be a negative one, and for which he wishes to assign the cause to his ☐. Those voting in the affirmative, should scrupulously refrain from exhibiting or announcing their votes, because such a course is calculated to indicate, in proportion to its extent, either the one who cast a negative ballot, or those within the circle of which the brother or brothers may be placed, who are liable to the censure of the friends of the rejected one. No brother should institute any means to ascertain how another voted, and the knowledge, if imparted to him by any accidental cause, he should regard it as a point of honor to keep within his own bosom, the information thus derived."

RHODE ISLAND.

The report from this Grand ☐ seems to be a synopsis of Proceedings from June, 1852, to June, 1855. No address is published, though several appear to have been delivered. We notice one very nourishing feature in the method of procedure "adopted" by this Grand Body. A part of the usual programme seems to be the forming of a procession, and marching somewhere to hear an address, after which, from "about three hundred" to "a large number" of ladies and brethren sit down to "an excellent dinner," a "sumptuous entertainment," or "the good things of this life:" and it is recorded that "they removed a part of the deposit from the richly loaded tables." We can not help liking this observance of old customs. When our Ancient brethren called from labor, they did not rest contented with merely "*considering* themselves at refreshment." This "feasting on savory remembrances," is a modern arrangement.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, "in reviewing the labors of their Masonic brethren throughout the world, feel great pleasure in reporting that the Order never stood more firmly, nor promised more satisfactorily to accomplish its high mission." They give the following extract from the Georgia committee's report for 1853.

"We remember a case where a newly elected Master yielded the gavel to a visiting brother, who by virtue of his Degree, (of Past Master) in the Chapter, claimed it, the Master never having received it." The Rhode Island committee "think it must have been an extraordinary visitor that would have claimed the gavel under such circumstances, and a still more extraordinary Master who would have yielded it."

Making a man a Mason, does not always divest him of queer notions.

MARYLAND.

The Grand Master congratulates the Fraternity upon the harmony and good feeling existing among the brethren under that jurisdiction, and caution them not only to avoid occasion of reproach in their own conduct, but also to enact and rigidly enforce wholesome laws for the punishment of unworthy members. This caution may do us all good, for Masonry's worst and only effective foes are they of its own household.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence say, that they "have perused the transactions of the above mentioned Grand Bodies (the list is first given,) with great interest, and find among them a wonderful concurrence of opinion upon most of the important points of Masonic jurisprudence. Far different from this, was the case when Grand ☐, some years ago, by the committees of correspondence, first commenced the work of investigation and the comparing of

opinions. Then such were the discordant notes, that not unfrequently sharp retorts were given, and scarcely civil rejoinders made to expressed opinions, because of the broad difference of views upon the same matter. Now opinions, with few exceptions, beautifully harmonize ; and courteous language and brotherly love prevail, even where there are slight differences of opinion. So much so, one is disposed to exclaim, 'Behold ! how good and how pleasant a thing it is, brethren, to dwell together in unity.'

Objection is taken by the committee, to the By-Law in our trial code, which provides that, "every brother, as his name is called, shall rise, salute the Master, and pronounce his judgment, using the following form : Upon the honor of a Mason, I pronounce Bro. —, guilty (or not guilty, as the case may be,) of unmasonic conduct." Reference is made to the reasonings of a former committee upon the same subject. It is said, and too truthfully, that "all the facts are known to the members present, and the experience of the past sufficiently indicates that they will not be the only persons who will come to a knowledge thereof." The reasons for a secret ballot are, in the opinion of your committee, nearly, if not quite as strong in passing judgment upon the conduct of a brother, as in deciding upon an application for admission.

VIRGINIA.

The Proceedings of this Grand ☐, show a large attendance both of members and visitors. The Grand Master notices the death of the Past Grand Master, the Grand Senior Warden, and the Grand Tyler, all occurring within the period of a little more than twelve months. A sad inroad upon the ranks of our sister Grand ☐, and a warning to us to so keep our membership below, that we may be "vouched for" in the Celestial ☐ above.

"I have witnessed," says the address, "with the liveliest emotions of joy, the onward progress of our Order everywhere ; more especially the untiring efforts which are being made to elevate the intellectual as well as the moral condition, not only of our brethren, but of their children."

Attention is called "to the subject of *non affiliated Masons*, as one which is engrossing the attention of most, if not all the Grand ☐ in the Union. Some of them have passed laws amounting almost to a total proscription of such, from the rights and privileges of Masonry, while others have been more lenient. I recommend the subject to your earnest consideration, and trust that such legislation as will cut off this swarm of *drones* from reveling in the products of the hives of the industrious, will be adopted."

The following extract from the closing part of the Grand Mas-

ter's excellent address, would do for a preface to every Code of □ By-Laws that is printed for the use of members :

The present popularity of Masonry, is, in my opinion, a sign of the times pregnant with importance. Many will be, and doubtless many are, induced to apply for admission from unworthy motives. Let me entreat the □ to be cautious in the reception of candidates. There are some among us who think that the prosperity of a □ is indicated by the *number* of its members ; and hence, to increase the *number*, too little regard is paid to the *character* and *qualifications* of the candidate proposed. He is accepted with little or no inquiry into his qualifications and capacity ; hurried through the several Degrees ; often proves a Masonic dwarf, sometimes an abortion, or even a disgrace and a curse to the Institution. To avoid such and kindred evils, let me urge you to scrutinize *thoroughly* the character and qualifications of every candidate. Let them be men, not only above reproach, but also men of capacity sufficient not only to acquire a competent knowledge of the work and lectures, but capable of appreciating the beautiful system of morality which they teach.

"When material of the very best kind is offered in abundance, why should we accept stones wholly unfit for the builder's use ? Beware, too, of the introduction of *new tests or standards of qualification*. In cases of doubt or difficulty, refer to the book of Masonic Constitutions—that reliable old chart traced years ago, which, pointing to truth and justice as unerringly as the needle to the pole, has safely guided our noble old ship through many a tempestuous sea, and the strict observance of which will serve so to guide it till time shall be no more."

The Grand Secretary acknowledges the receipt of \$921,67 from different □—over half of it coming from New Orleans,—“for the relief of our suffering brethren, their widows and orphans in the plague stricken cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth.” The Grand □ contributed \$500 to the same object.

A special committee, previously appointed, “to examine the various important questions at present agitating the Fraternity,” made a lengthy report, treating in detail the subjects of non-affiliation, petitions, cases of emergency, honorary membership, and re-instatement. Upon the subject of non-affiliation, the report is labored and interesting—too long to give here, but well entitled to a careful perusal by every member of our Order. After going into the ancient history of the Institution, and showing the object and meaning of membership, the committee say :

“Non-affiliation in the United States, which had its origin in accident and unavoidable circumstances incident to the unsettled condition of the colonists, some of whom were made Masons in military traveling □, some in □ under dispensation in localities remote from any chartered □, and some in chartered □ rendered dormant by war, &c., has been perpetuated by indulgent sufferance, until in some jurisdictions their influence outside of the Institution has been brought to bear in preventing wholesome Masonic legislation upon this subject ; and which, if not successfully resisted by the Grand □ of the United States, will, in all probability, destroy our noble Institution.”

The subject of “dimit” is considered in this connection, and the committee come to the conclusion that the true Masonic meaning of dimit is *to die*, “and by that death to lay down the office or official robes.” “Let it be borne in mind,” says the report, “that the

only place in the Constitution in which the word 'dimits' is used, is in direct connection with the succession of office." As a summing up the committee says:

From all the foregoing it seems, then, perfectly manifest that an unaffiliated Mason has *no right whatever* except the right of joining some ☐; and that right to be exercised before the judgment of the Constitution and law is pronounced against him; and in the failure to exercise this palpable duty by the ☐, at last consists the evil."

The committee consider "well-grounded cases of emergency as extremely rare," being able to think of but one, namely, that of "the patriot soldier or sailor called suddenly by the voice of his country to fight her battles."

The question of "Honorary Membership" is next disposed of. Your committee were utterly at a loss to understand the meaning of the term until after reading the report, and we caught ourselves wondering on what terms, or rather in what character, an honorary member of a ☐ here would be admitted to the Supreme Lodge above. Having been taught at the outset that Masonry was a "beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols," and having been also instructed that there were "three great duties which, as Masons, we were charged to inculcate—to God, our neighbor, and ourselves,"—we could not quite conceive the claims which any mortal could prefer for absolution from the labor which the Great Master of all lays out for us upon his well-used trestle-board. We find, however, that an Honorary Member is "one who is entitled to all the privileges and honors conferred by Lodge Membership, while he is exempt from all the requirements of such ☐ as set forth in its By-Laws; he pays no dues, attends no summons except voluntarily, &c." Precedents are cited as authority for such a membership, and cases are mentioned where it would seem proper and brotherly to allow the exemptions mentioned. They are extreme cases, however, and we wish they might be provided for under some other name than the contradictory one of Honorary Membership in a Masonic ☐.

The report objects in the strongest terms to the so-called *late* custom of referring petitions to a committee appointed by name to investigate and report upon the character of the applicant. "That so monstrous and absurd a proposition should even for a moment have found favor among intelligent Masons, is a matter of great surprise," is the language of the committee. Either such language is unnecessarily harsh, or our Grand ☐ has pressing work before it; for there is not probably a Subordinate ☐ under this jurisdiction but commits just such an absurdity at nearly every stated Communication. One objection to the practice is, that what should be the particular

duty of each member is left to be performed by a very few; the other objections are the same as those urged in favor of the secret ballot. And it seems to us that the condition of a committee compelled by convictions of duty to report unfavorably upon a petition, is not a very enviable one. They are obliged in effect to ballot openly—to proclaim to the whole ☐ that they must cast a black ball. It is a subject worthy of consideration.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is very brief. The recusant ☐ in Canada are strenuously urged "to fall back upon their former position of Subordinates, and commence to attain their object by a respectful, firm, but Masonic memorial to their mother Grand ☐.

GEORGIA.

One hundred and ninety-four chartered ☐ represented. The reports of the several District Deputy Grand Masters show the Order to be in a flourishing condition. A new Constitution was adopted. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence say :

It is a striking fact, that in almost every jurisdiction of our extended Union, Grand Masters and Committees on Foreign Correspondence, are imposing upon the Craft the absolute necessity of an enlarged knowledge of the principles, the design, and the history of Masonry. Viewed no longer as it has been too long, as a merely social institution, it is now assuming its original and undoubted position as a speculative science. While the mere ritual is still carefully preserved, as the casket should be which contains so bright a jewel—while its charities are still dispensed as the necessary though incidental result of its moral teachings—while its social tendencies are still cultivated as the tenacious current which is to unite in sympathy and strength so fair a fabric, the Masonic mind is everywhere beginning to look and ask for something which, like the manna in the desert, shall feed us in our pilgrimage with intellectual food; the universal cry is for light, more light. Our ☐ should henceforth be schools—our labors should be the study of Masonry—our wages will then be learning. The types and symbols of our Institution are beginning to be investigated with reference to their ultimate meaning. Our history is now traced by zealous inquirers, to its connection with antiquity, and the Masonic world is beginning to understand in its true sense that so often quoted phrase, that "Masonry is a science of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols."

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Grand Master in congratulating the Craft upon the flourishing condition of the Order, says :

"I well remember, (and so do many of you,) when the young apprentice to our art was long and anxiously watched with as much scrutiny by parents and friends as if he had entered into a league with sin and Satan for his own moral destruction. I remember, too, when every church in the land, (with, perhaps, here and there a solitary exception,) was arrayed in the general crusade against us. But how changed the picture now! The good, the virtuous and the pious are thronging our portals, swelling our numbers, and demonstrating to the world that ours is an Institution worthy of their highest regard."

Of the proposed Grand ☐ Confederation, he says :

"The plan to my mind is both ineffectual and inoperative. It seeks to

create an organization without any head to control it, or even the form of a body. Even if it could exist and operate as proposed by the Convention, the delay necessarily incurred in its operations would soon bring it into disuse."

The Grand ☐ concurred in this opinion.

Upon the subject of non-affiliating Masons, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence say :

"Withdrawals from ☐ seem to be as plenty as 'leaves in Valambrosa's Vale,' and while this thing is permitted your ☐ will sink into insignificance, and only 'glimmer as the things that were.' Almost all the Grand ☐ are entering their protest against these nondescripts, who, like a fungus, attach themselves to our body, and whilst they wither and destroy us, make a most prominent show to the world on every festival occasion."

Stringent resolutions are recommended.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

This Grand ☐ held one Annual, three Special, and four Quarterly Communications in 1855. The business transacted seems to have been of a local character. The Grand Annual Communication was held upon the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, and the records run, that the brethren in the banquet hall "celebrated the grand feast with the usual festivities." No address is given in the Proceedings. The report of the Grand Secretary, who does the work of a Committee on Correspondence, is, as might be expected from Brother Mackey's pen, a Masonic treat, concise and emphatic. He sustains the decision of the Grand ☐ of Illinois, that a Master and Wardens cannot resign. He condemns "haste" in the ceremony of conferring a Degree, saying that "the old charges, which are the fundamental law of Masonry, expressly and emphatically declare that 'the Master and the Masons shall honestly finish their work,' and to initiate a candidate imperfectly, by the omission of any portion of the ritual or lectures, is a manifest violation of this explicit command." We are glad to be able to thus quote Brother Mackey upon this subject. The practice which has within our own experience sometimes prevailed, of "rushing the thing through," abbreviating this and entirely omitting that, informing the candidate by way of a saving clause that he shall see the Degree conferred in full "some time," is, as it seems to us, one of the most fatal errors a ☐ can commit if it desires to turn out good Masons. First impressions last a long time, and it is dangerous to assume that a bad impression, or a want of impression, may be corrected by some future patching up. A neglect either of our mysteries or the lessons they are intended to enforce, is alike pernicious. Brother Mackey speaks feelingly upon the "indiscriminate initiation of all comers," characterizing it as a "growing evil, which, like the worm that was

invisibly gnawing the staff which supported Solomon's body, threatens to undermine and destroy every prop of our ancient temple." "Let it ever be remembered as a maxim," says he, "that the brother who, by the use of the black-ball is instrumental in keeping one bad man out of his ☐, does more real and substantial good to the Order than he who by the most unremitting exertions brings ten good ones into it, for the virtuous influence extended by the ten good men can never counterbalance the evil that must result from the admission of one bad one."

PENNSYLVANIA.

The addresses of the retiring Grand Master and the Grand Master elect, and the ceremonies at the dedication of the new hall, with the list of Grand ☐ appointments, are all that the pamphlet before us contains.

NEW JERSEY.

The Grand Master congratulates the Craft upon the healthy and highly prosperous condition of the ☐ throughout that jurisdiction; cautions the brethren to guard well the doors of their ☐; admonishes them to "learn the import of our emblems, signals and usages," we being bound by their Masonic teachings; deprecates the conferring of more than one Degree in an evening, as an evil to be "abolished at once or only indulged in extreme cases;" and closes with a cheering picture of the joys that await the "duly prepared" in the "Celestial Temple." Having served for five consecutive years, he declined a re-election to the office of Grand Master.

The question of jurisdiction, which we notice elsewhere, called for a preamble and resolution.


The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is in an "Appendix," as we have reason to suppose from the fact that leave was given to publish it.


MISSISSIPPI.


The Register of ☐ under this jurisdiction shows a total of 7,796 members. We notice that 37 Past Masters attended the Grand ☐; 115 ☐ answering to the roll call. From the Grand Master's Address, it appears that Harmony ☐ in Natches was organized under a charter from Kentucky, in 1802, and that in 1819 there were but three ☐ in the State, with a roll of 104 members. "No longer confined to two small spots on the Mississippi," remarks the Grand Master, "the light of Masonry has diffused itself over the entire State." * * * * * "It was during a brief stay in Vicksburg, in May last, that I had the peculiar gratification of conferring the Master's degree upon a respected friend, a useful and exemplary

minister of the Most High—the ceremony being attended by some eighty or a hundred brethren. The presence and participation in the exercises, of thirteen of the clergy of the church to which the brother belonged, was a high and deserved compliment to the usefulness, the beneficence and integrity of our noble Institution. It was a tribute from worth to worth that deserves record."

We cannot resist the temptation to make the following rather long quotation, believing the suggestions as worthy of attention as they are beautifully expressed:

"Before proceeding to the business before us, let me invoke harmony in our deliberations, conciliation, kindness and gentleness in expressing our differences, and above all, that Brotherly Love, which, as Anderson has it, is 'the foundation and cap-stone, the cement and glory of this ancient Fraternity.'—that all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do to the end of time." In the excitement of debate, in the interchange of opinion, we are sometimes apt to forget that ours is a Masonic and not a parliamentary body; and that the mere technicalities of parliamentary law, and the contrivances which are so often used in legislative halls to carry what is favored, or to thwart what is opposed, should meet with no approval in our halls. We are members of one great family, and in the circle of our duties the E. A. starts at the point where the M. M. ends—at Brotherly Love. It is the first jewel of the former; it is the last and crowning jewel of the latter. Let the familiar lesson convey to each and all, its proper and impressive truth. We are proud of belonging to an Institution which has come down from far-distant ages, an enigma and a mystery to the world without its portals; to whose councils a Solomon gave directions; over whose  a Saint John presided; to whose rolls monarchs have added the lustre of their names, and given to its teachings the title of the Royal Art; to whose purity the good and wise of the earth have attested in life and in death; whose principles are universal, and which never could have survived the lapse of time had not Virtue marked it for her own, and Deity lent it His improving smiles. Venerable in its antiquity; overflowing in rich stores of learning; appealing to the heart for the purity of its morals; to the mind for the vast range of knowledge which it has transmitted from age to age; and to every clime and country for evidences of its history—Masonry stands now where it has stood for centuries; cultivating the same virtues and the same liberal arts; subduing the same passions; teaching the same great lessons of man's mortality, of the resurrection of the body, and the immortality of the soul; and inculcating the duty of so wearing throughout life the emblem of innocence as the badge of Masonic character, that when the golden bowl is broken, and the silver cord is loosened, we may be raised by the Grand Master of Heaven and earth, to a knowledge of the great secrets and a participation in the great joys of the life to come."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, speaking of organized  under charters, say:

"In the days of Operative Freemasonry, it is true that  were not chartered; but we do not think it is true that any certain number of Masons met when and where they pleased and initiated any and every person they saw proper. This was only true, we think, as to the Grand Master's initiating kings and other patrons of the Craft; others who were initiated were actually apprentices to the trade of a Mason, and no Master was authorized to take any unless he had sufficient work for him. * * * * * At no time were apprentices (except the patrons before mentioned,) received merely for the sake of teaching them the mysteries of the Craft, whether of operative or speculative Masonry, but because they were wanted for the work. Those made by the Grand Master were not intended for

the work, and were not generally initiated in a particular □, but in a Grand □, so called, because the Grand Master or some other Grand Officer presided. It was done without the candidate going through the regular probation for initiation; nor was he required to serve the regular term at the business and craft of a Mason before advancement. Hence the term 'making Masons at sight.'"

In noticing the Proceedings of the California Grand □, the Committee say:

"The Committee (on F. C.) report a resolution, which was adopted, denying the right to visit. This accords with the opinion of Maryland, but is in opposition to the doctrine of this as well as of many other Grand □. The Grand □ of England in 1813, was on the point of withdrawing the charter from a □ for refusing admittance to certain brethren as visitors. The □ apologized by pleading ignorance of the "General Law," and we find it mentioned by Dr. Oliver in a note to *Preston's Illustrations to Masonry*."

The Grand □ of Louisiana, it seems, passed a resolution embodying the doctrine that the Masonic Ritual is *useful* but not *essential*, more an article of discipline than of faith, often changed, and *not a Landmark of the Order*. This resolution calls forth some very emphatic remarks from the Indiana Committee on F. C., quoted in the report before us; and the Mississippi Committee add for themselves:

"We also think the Ritual essential, though of less importance by far, very far, than the ethics and teachings of Masonry. It may be that the Ritual is but the machinery, yet it is as essential to the Masonic work as the engine is to the steamboat."

Speaking of the power of the Master of the □ to dimit, we are told that "in Mississippi he cannot, because our Constitution forbids it. If it were not for that, he could dimit, or at least it is evident that Masters and other officers in England did dimit a hundred and fifty years ago." *Died*, according to the Virginia Special Committee's definition of the term—a species of dimitting which Grand □ Constitutions cannot restrain or control.

The following resolution is noticed as having been passed by the Louisiana Grand □:

Resolved, That it is the imperative duty of all Masons, carefully and at all times to abstain from gambling, profane swearing, intemperance and evil speaking.

Speaking of resolutions adopted by the Maryland Grand □, making profane swearing a subject of discipline, and declaring evil speaking good cause for expulsion, the Committee say: "We only condemn the re-enactment of what was already Masonic Law. A Mason guilty of profane swearing forgets his first and highest Masonic duty, and if, in addition, he slanders and speaks evil of his brother, forgets his whole duty."

Upon the question whether a Mason can be tried for offences com-

mitted before initiation—about which there seems to be some conflict of opinion—the Committee think there should be some way of reaching *crimes*, the commission of which was unknown at the time of initiation. The Grand □ during its sitting, passed the following resolution, a case in point having arisen under its own jurisdiction :

Resolved, That it is the opinion of the Grand □, that in the decision by this body made at this Communication, that a Subordinate □ may try and expel a member for a crime or offence committed before he was made a Mason, ought to be confined to crimes which are felonious in their character and which are designated as felonious by the criminal laws of the country.

VERMONT.

Thirty-four of the thirty-five chartered □ were represented in Grand □. The Grand Master notices the death of G. : M. : Nathan B. Haswell, since the last preceding Communication, and pays an extended tribute to his memory. But two dispensations were granted during the year, the Grand Master rejoicing that more were not asked for, as “a strong indication of rugged health.” A correspondence between the Grand Masters of Vermont and Massachusetts is published relative to “Prince Hal Grand □,” of colored men, existing in Boston. It and its Subordinates are not recognized by the Grand □ of Massachusetts, and probably not by any Grand □ in the United States.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence present an interesting document. They concur with the Arkansas Committee in condemning the practice of allowing a brother who had cast a black ball, to move a re-consideration at a subsequent meeting, under an assertion of mistake, saying—“In our view it is better that mistakes occur than that our gates should be thrown wide open, through a morbid fear of injuring somebody's feelings.” A resolution was passed, recognizing the Grand □ of Canada.

FLORIDA.

Nineteen □ represented in Grand □. The Grand Master announces the death of two P. : G. : M's. : , and a P. : G. : Chaplain.

The G. : L. : adopted the report of a Select Committee, that it is not in accordance with the Ancient regulations, nor with the spirit of Masonry, that a brother should withdraw his membership from a □ to which he is attached, except for the purpose of connecting himself with some other □, or for the reason that he is about to remove from the jurisdiction of the □ of which he is a member ; and recommending that Subordinate □ be instructed to grant dimitts under no other consideration.

LOUISIANA.

98 [] answered the roll call on the first day. The Grand Master says: "In reviewing the transactions and occurrences of the past year, we find abundant cause for congratulation. We have little that is bad and much that is good to report. The union of *all* the Masonic [] of this State is complete, and their representatives are now, or ought to be, here." Complaint having been made by the Mississippi Grand [] of trespasses upon her jurisdiction by the border [], he says: "The M. W. Grand Master of Mississippi, Brother Giles M. Hillyer, adheres to the policy of permitting residents of either State to unite with [] nearest to them, regardless of civil boundaries, and sustains his position by plausible arguments; but I am well convinced that trouble will continue on the borders unless the State boundaries be fully recognized, and applicants be required to get the assent of their own Grand [] or Grand Master before uniting with a [] in an adjoining State."

The same complaints we have noticed in the Proceedings of perhaps nearly all the Grand [], and as State lines are the only lines that can be readily adopted, the above remarks will doubtless meet the approval of every one who assents to any Grand [] jurisdiction.

The opinion is advanced that "as a matter of policy," a brother should not be installed as Master, until he has served as Warden, though governed by previous sanction of the Grand [], the M. W. Grand Master did install "as Masters two who never filled (under election) the office of Warden." He speaks of the law requiring the Master to have served as Warden, as "a regulation of the Grand [] of England," and says, "it certainly is not a universal regulation nor a Landmark."

The Mississippi Committee on Foreign Correspondence quote the same or a similar provision as a part of the "Ancient Law," and seem to consider it as binding everywhere, saying just before, that "the old regulations," forming a part of the Ancient Constitutions, we do not think binding on any other Grand [] than that of England." They continue—"The Ancient Law is clearly shown, we think, under the 4th general head of the charges: * * * *
'No brother can be a Warden until he has passed the post of a Fellow Craft, *nor Master until he has served as a Warden*, nor Grand Warden until he has been Master of a [].'"

Brother Cornelius Moore, in his "Craftsman"—the only book at this moment within our reach—reprints the Ancient Constitutions, prefacing them with this remark: "The following 'Ancient Constitutions are obligatory as fundamental regulations in all parts of the

world,' and it is therefore highly important that they should be accessible to every Mason."

In Section 3 of Chapter 2, is the following provision :

"No brother should be a Master till he has first served a ☐ acceptably in the office of Warden, unless in extraordinary cases, or when a new ☐ is to be formed and no past or former Warden is to be found among the members. But three Master Masons, although they have served in no such offices, if they be well learned, may be constituted Master and Wardens of such new ☐, or of any old ☐ in the like emergency, and it shall be their duty first to qualify themselves thoroughly for their work."

Brother Moore also reprints the "Charges, Regulations, &c., of that most Ancient and Right Worshipful Fraternity" (of Freemasons). The provision quoted by the Mississippi Committee is among the "Charges," and not among the "Regulations."

It would seem, then, that both the "Ancient Constitutions," which are not binding, and the "Ancient Charges," which are binding as Masonic Landmarks, unite in forbidding the practice under discussion. With the lights before us we propose to "adhere" to the opinion adopted by our Grand ☐ in 1855, "deprecating as unmasonic the custom of electing to the Oriental Chair, one who has not served in the office of Warden."

Can a brother belong to more than one ☐ at the same time, is another question brought forward here and in a number of other reports. Before reading anything upon the subject, your committee very naturally supposed not; but after reading a good deal we have waded among conflicting opinions into a state of doubt, which we have just now no time to resolve. "As a matter of policy," we think, however, that a membership in one ☐, well sustained, is enough.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, noticing the Proceedings of this Grand ☐ for 1855, and alluding to a certain resolution of inquiry into any irregularities, violations of the Constitution, Ancient Landmarks, &c., by the Grand ☐ or officers, take occasion to say :

"Our brethren who are the pioneers of Masonry in that region, will have to bring into exercise, not only all their prudence and circumspection, but a large share of patience, and that charity which will enable them to make suitable allowances for the teachings of different Masters, and the unfinished condition of some of the material found in their edifice. We trust, however, that they will be firm in establishing the correct standard on all essential points, and they will succeed in giving Masonry such a start in Minnesota that it shall exemplify the sacred tenets of our profession."

It gratifies us to assure our Louisiana brethren that the daily search and prayer of Masons in Minnesota is for "Ancient Masonry," both in work and spirit, and that the present condition of our beloved Order here is, with a few exceptions, *prosperous* in the true sense of the word. Our numbers are rapidly increasing, but not

faster than the spirit of zealous inquiry into the intent and meaning of the ceremonies we practice. The speculative SCIENCE of Freemasonry is being talked about and sought into.

In regard to our open ballot in cases of trial, the committee remark: "With all the precaution that can be used to prevent it, there will, in every trial, be a good deal of excitement and personal feeling, and it must be evident to all who will reflect about it, that the practice of voting openly on such occasions, is calculated to destroy peace and harmony among the brethren." And in this connection we may remark that, in accordance with the suggestion of the Grand Master, the Grand ☐ of California at its Communication in June last, changed their trial code upon this point, and adopted the ballot in place of the viva voce vote. Your committee would recommend the same amendment in our own code. While so many reasons weigh against the existing provision, not one of any importance can be urged in its favor.

One more quotation, and we will leave the "sunny south," among whose beauties we have too long lingered. In noticing the discrepancies in work, and the "itching palm" which possesses many who "in support and confirmation of certain theories, are disposed to make a slight improvement (?) in the work every now and then," the committee can think of but one antidote, and that is *the* one which best pleases us. "We cannot reorganize Masonry again—we can never assemble the Fraternity throughout the world, or any recognized representatives of them. All we can do is to cut off what we believe to be of modern introduction into our forms and ceremonies—to leave it out altogether—to forget it as fast as we can—to adhere to the Landmarks and to the old way of doing things without trying to improve the phraseology or order of proceedings."

KANSAS.

Delegates from all the chartered ☐ in Kansas, three in number, assembled at Leavenworth, pursuant to the action of a previous Convention, on the 17th of March last, whereupon the Grand ☐ of Kansas was opened and the proper officers were elected and installed. The Grand ☐ was then called off until July.

INDIANA.

The representatives of 185 ☐ appeared. Alluding to the prosperity of the Order during the preceding year, the Grand Master says, "It may emphatically be said to have been a year of peace and quiet. I doubt whether there has ever been a year in the history of the Institution of our State, when there were fewer indica-

tions of disquiet, or stronger evidences of prosperity." A resolution was passed recognizing the Grand ☐ of Canada.

The Committee on Unfinished Business reported a resolution as follows, which was adopted:

"Resolved, That the Master of a Subordinate ☐ has the right to resign or dimit."

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, pervaded by the general "peace and quiet" prevailing there, merely acknowledge the reception of a long list of Proceedings from the several Grand Bodies, and infer that there is a general time of prosperity among the Craft.

MAINE.

Returns were received from 76 ☐, showing 3,211 members. The Grand Master declining a re-election, says:

"Almost fifty-three years of my life I have been connected with the Masonic Institution; I have spent many pleasant hours with brethren, some of whom are gone while others live: I have received many tokens of their kind regard. During that period I have paid some attention, as my brethren all know, to the theory of Masonry; but have always found the practical part of Masonry the hardest and most difficult to learn; and should I be inquired of how that can be overcome and made less difficult, I know of no better answer or advice to give, than to set your standard of morals high."

The Committee on Dispensations and Charters recommended the use of the term "Stated Communication," instead of "Regular Communication," in ☐ records.

A resolution was adopted against excluding all allusions to Christianity from Masonic ☐, and in favor of retaining the Bible entire, as the Great Light in Masonry. A resolution recognizing the Grand ☐ of Canada, was referred to the next Communication. The Grand Secretary was instructed to forward two copies of their Proceedings, separately, and on different days, to each Grand ☐ in the United States.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is an interesting document to peruse, but being mostly a review of the Proceedings of other Grand Bodies, "in the absence," as the committee allege, "of subjects of controversy which have sometimes required earnest criticism," we will not quote from it.

IOWA.

54 chartered ☐ represented at the opening of this Grand ☐. The Grand Master beautifully says:

"Our ancient brethren were accustomed to hold an Annual Communication and grand feast, a season of happy entertainment and recreation with them, at which time they 'considered any good motion' that might be brought forward for the benefit of the Craft; and although in our Annual Communication we have not the rich viands that were spread before them, yet when we assemble in these Communications with our good brethren

from all parts of the State, after a separation of a year, and meet together to take counsel for our general welfare, we have a repast far more sumptuous, and a feast of the soul more gladsome and joyous than the most luxurious banquet; and like as our ancient brethren were accustomed to have all differences amicably adjusted before they partook of their feast, that the Communication might be free and harmonious, so may the members of this Grand ☐ commence and conduct their present labors in such a spirit of kindness that no interruption may be given to the harmony or pleasure of the present interview."

A resolution acknowledging the Grand ☐ of Canada, was adopted. We also notice the following resolutions as having passed:

Resolved, That this Grand ☐ is opposed to the practice which has prevailed to some extent, of connecting dancing with Masonry, or using the name and symbols of Masonry in connection with a ball.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Grand ☐, that it is not expedient for ☐ U. D. to elect or admit (Master Masons) members of the same.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, is a long and carefully prepared document. Having received it only a few days ago, we are reluctantly compelled to confine ourselves to a very brief notice of it.

Speaking of refusing to bury a non-affiliated brother with Masonic honors, the committee say:

"Your committee are willing to apply all needful regulations and discipline to living men, but are not willing to pursue the dead. We regard this practice as kindred to that which refuses christian burial to those who die without the pale of a certain church."

We cannot assent to any such conclusion. There is nothing better settled among Masons than the idea of reciprocity of obligation. There need be—there should be—no vindictive spirit manifested—no "*pursuing the dead*,"—in a mere refusal to perform those solemn rites at the grave of a departed brother, to which he is entitled if in all respects worthy, and to which he is not entitled if he has lived in continued violation of his Masonic duties.


If a Mason continues non-affiliated through no fault of his own, no discipline is necessary; no neglect of any general Masonic duty toward him can be justified. But a case of willful standing aloof, and thus avoiding all the labors and sacrifices which ☐ members must bear, in our opinion renders the delinquent unworthy to be taken by the hand as a brother; and we can see no impropriety in saying that such an one must not expect the same honors paid to his remains that await the faithful laborer who dies in the harness.



In speaking upon the question as to what physical deficiency disqualifies a candidate—a question, by the way, a good deal discussed in the several reports before us, the committee express themselves "in favor of giving the strictest possible construction to the ancient regulation of the Order. It is the only safety of Masonry," say they, "amidst the fluctuations of modern times, to preserve inviolate






to the last degree the original sense of its fundamental Constitutions." Such, we are happy to state, is the prevailing opinion.



The subject of uniformity of work is noticed at some length. We have already quoted from the Louisiana committee's report upon this subject. The remedy there proposed strikes us as the only feasible one.


NEW YORK.


Two hundred and seventy-three  were represented. The Grand Master presents the following picture of the prosperity existing under this jurisdiction :

"From the first organization of the Grand  there has never been a period when the condition of Masonry in this State has been more healthful and propitious than it is at present. 'Peace dwelleth within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces.' We have now three hundred and nineteen warranted  and thirty-two under dispensation, which, with but few exceptions, present a perfect symmetry of what is admirable and praiseworthy in Masonry ; united in sentiment, harmonious in action, and emulous in love."

With this declaration before us, and taking into connection the fact that this Grand  is acknowledged by so many Grand Bodies in the United States, while no other Grand  from New York is anywhere recognized, we deem it impolitic, if not actually improper, to still speak of "New York troubles." The address of the Grand Master is lengthy and able. He pronounces aspiration for office as the bane of Masonry, producing nearly every annoying trouble, dividing , severing friendships, destroying unity, turning love into hate, and friends into enemies. He notices with approbation the fact that "many of the  positively refuse to admit a candidate into the next Degree, until after he becomes a proficient in the first section of the preceding one, and repeats it in open .

 The same regulation has been introduced into several—perhaps all—of the  in this Territory, and its beneficial effects are very apparent. The Grand  of New York passed a resolution requiring the proficiency spoken of before advancement.

The Grand Master strongly condemns the action of those Canadian  which have organized into a separate jurisdiction. This portion of the address was referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and no report upon the subject appears.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence in the discharge of their peculiar duty, present a report worthy of the Empire State. We have had time to glance over it only, promising ourselves the treat of a full reading hereafter, by which we shall get the "cream" of half the Grand  Proceedings in the country. Noticing the report of a South Carolina Committee upon the manner of voting, the following to us singular assertion is made: "We feel quite

confident that a few moments' reflection will show the propriety of voting with the *left* hand." This is so new to your committee, that it is quoted for the purpose of eliciting information, for we were never before so taught.

In noticing a resolution adopted by the Grand ☐ of Arkansas in 1854, avowing "that a ☐ working under dispensation or warrant from the Grand Master, is a Regular and Constitutional ☐ Constitution: "Has Arkansas ever allowed the Masters, Wardens and Past Masters of ☐ under Dispensation, to vote in the Grand ☐? We think not. If she has done so, she stands alone in this respect among the Grand ☐ of the world, and yet these officers are members of the Grand ☐ under the resolution above copied; and if a Grand Master from some fancied or real wrong should think proper to continue his place, against the wishes and interests of his jurisdiction, or to *extinguish* the Grand ☐ by the votes of such satellites as he might create, he would only have to issue his dispensations to a certain number of his friends, to out-vote and override the true representatives of the Fraternity." The Proceedings of the Universal Masonic Congress, held in Paris in 1855, by decree of Prince Lucien Murat, are given in full, and add not a little to the interest and value of the report. But we have not time to look through and notice the voluminous Proceedings of this Grand ☐.

OREGON.

The Proceedings of this far-off jurisdiction make quite a little pamphlet. Ten out of eleven ☐ were represented. The address of the Grand Master is upon local matters. He complains that candidates after being initiated, have, without any apparent cause, been refused advancement in several instances, and he submits, "whether it would not be more *Masonic* to consider an E. . A. . or F. . C. . in the light of a Mason, as he really is, and entitled to our protection as such? if charges are made against him, that he may have an opportunity to refute those charges, and if, on examination, he is found guilty of an offence, or if he has deceived the ☐ and proves to be other than he was represented, let the Master whom he is taught to serve, expel him on his own motion, and thus free the ☐ from a useless drone—or in other words, reject the stone as wholly unfit for the moral Masonic edifice we are endeavoring to erect."

The Grand ☐ are collecting an Educational Fund, and the amount in the hands of the Educational Committee was reported at \$1,201.71.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence is short. They consider it no part of their duty "to review, overrule and reverse the decisions of Grand Masters," "and to intimate doubts of the wisdom, propriety, and regularity of the decisions of Grand [] . " The session lasted four days, and the Grand [] did a "heap" of work of a local character.

CALIFORNIA.

Fifty-nine [] answered the roll-call, and the Grand Master announces the granting of twenty-three Dispensations. In his address, the Grand Master warns the brethren to look well to the material they are working into the Masonic edifice. "Negative virtues will not answer," is his emphatic declaration, a declaration which cannot be too often repeated. It having been proposed to add to the Constitution a section providing "that no brother shall become eligible to the office of Master of a chartered [] unless he shall have served as Warden of some [] , " the Grand Master opposes the amendment, alleging that the bare fact of its being found among the ancient regulations is not sufficient to demand a blind adherence to any rule of action where it can be shown to be of doubtful propriety." He prefers that the brethren should have a chance of correcting their error in case they are unfortunate enough to find the Warden's chair occupied by an inefficient brother instead of being obliged to advance him to the highest position in the [] . The proposed amendment was rejected by the Grand [] .

Border troubles afflict our California brethren, also. The Grand Master favors the doctrine that "proximity of residence and convenience of application would prove a better governing rule than mere geographical lines." It strikes us that such a rule would be found too indefinite. If a Grand [] has any Territorial jurisdiction it must be defined by metes and bounds. There is no great hardship, and no ruinous delay in asking and waiting for a dispensation in those few cases where the applicants in one State are more convenient to a [] of a neighboring State, and it is hardly Masonic to pre-suppose that such an application would, in a proper case, be refused. The consideration of one jurisdiction in asking, and the courtesy of the other in granting it, would tend to promote brotherly feeling and acquaintance, and all danger from chaining off distances, and "proving up" mere claims of "convenience," would be avoided.

The Grand [] , in accordance with the report of a committee, postponed action relative to the Grand [] of Canada, "with the sincere hope," as they say, "that before our next Annual Communication all their difficulties will have been fraternally settled."

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence reported that in their

opinion, the Grand ☐ had power to restore all expelled Masons to all the rights and privileges of Masonry, upon a proper application from the ☐ by which he was expelled, but denying the right to restore him to membership in a particular ☐ without the unanimous consent of the members of that ☐, which report was concurred in.

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, is a sizeable pamphlet by itself. It is a most excellently planned summary of the grave, off-hand and facetious, by turns; and we have laughed some and looked wise a good deal while running through it. In noticing the Proceedings of our Grand ☐ for 1855, the committee say:

"There must be some 'powerful' speakers in this Grand ☐, as though it had a constituency of only five Subordinates, and appears to have had very little business to transact—it remained five days in session."

When our Golden State brethren are assured that this "powerful" Grand Body prolongs its sittings—not for buncombe, nor press of business, nor outside effect, but—for "the pure love of the thing," for the purpose of spending a few days of our winter season—when business ceases its pressure, and festivity and social enjoyments are the general order—in fraternal counsel and intercourse; dividing our time between those two holy places, the ☐ room and the family fireside of a brother—we hope we may be allowed to spread our record over at least one short week without detriment to the Fraternity, or alarm to an individual brother.

Thus your committee have run through the matter before them. Among the many subjects of interest necessarily passed unnoticed, is that of education, which, forming a prominent part of the Proceedings in nearly every Grand ☐ in the Union, has been purposely reserved in order that one notice might serve for all. Educational funds, schools, colleges and seminaries are being established and fostered under the auspices of our Order in State after State. No longer confining their knowledge to conferring Degrees, and their efforts to the ☐ room, the Craft are everywhere engaged in bringing Masonry back to its original design, and making it again a "School of Science." The attention of this Grand ☐ is respectfully called to this matter. No surer method could be adopted for killing off drones, and driving away the unworthy, than thus to make the Institution "Operative Masonry," operative in its speculative department, not only fostering the study of the sciences, but providing for and enforcing it. The young, enlightened through its efforts, and looking to it as their Alma Mater, cannot but love and revere the royal art in their earlier years, and become its zealous supporters in age; and the worthy Mason, having discharged his duty, and left his good deeds to operate through ages to come, will

have the happy assurance of knowing that his children's children "will call him blessed."

Your committee can not close their labors without apologizing for the crudeness of this report. We have been obliged to skim through the various Proceedings and quote what struck the eye, and if sometimes we culled a crooked stick, there was no opportunity to return and better it. More time would have enabled us to notice further the *business* transactions, and to condense our extracts. We have endeavored to make such selections as would be of interest to the brethren of this jurisdiction, many of whom are young and need to have impressed upon them a true idea of the scope and design of Masonry. In our examination, one thing has been forcibly impressed upon us—that the duties of a Committee on Correspondence are arduous, and, when well performed, of great importance to Masonry. These committees, it has struck us, are doing all that could be done by a National Confederation as proposed at the Washington Convention, and in a way conducive to harmony among the Craft. Each Grand ☐, and through it each brother under its jurisdiction, is thus furnished with the decisions of all the sister Grand ☒ and with the opinions of those learned in the law and principles of Masonry throughout the Union. Friendly but free discussions are elicited, errors are pointed out, and with "line upon line and precept upon precept—here a little and there a little"—the great truths which form "the rock of our foundation," are enunciated and explained.

GEO. W. PRESCOTT, } Committee.
H. REYNOLDS, }

"Your committee can not close our labors without expressing its
 satisfaction in the report. We have been obliged to abstain through-
 out the various proceedings and giving what struck the eye, and it seems
 to me that we could not have done better. There was no opportunity to return
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